

DOGWING TIMBER SALE

September 17, 2007 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Stillwater Unit (NWLO) – Approximately 11 air miles west of Whitefish, Montana.
- Flathead County – N1/2, Section 30; Lot 4, Section 31; Lots 1-4, E1/2NW1/4, E1/2SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4, Section 32; all in T33N, R23W; and Lots 1, 2, and 5-10, Section 24, T33N, R24W
- Trust Distribution - 53% Public Buildings, 44% Common School, and 3% MSU Income.
- The proposed sale is within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 17,080 tons (2,586 Mbf) with an estimated minimum value of \$555,079.00 or \$32.50/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$2.95/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 6.60 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale consists of 6 harvest units totaling 281 acres.
- A seed tree harvest will be conducted in units 1 – 6. In addition to scattered seed trees, reserve islands would be left in unit 2 to maintain visual diversity, edge effect, and cover for wildlife. All subalpine fir and lodgepole pine are designated for harvest in unit 6. These silvicultural prescriptions are designed to initiate regeneration of seral species and to remove trees infected with bark beetles, mistletoe, and root rot. Large, healthy western larch, Douglas-fir, and western white pine would be favored for retention as seed trees.
- Post-harvest, approximately 174 acres would be planted with western larch and western white pine.
- This sale contains no old growth.

Harvest Systems:

- 100% Tractor

Road Construction:

- Approximately 0.3 miles of new road construction are required to access the harvest units.
- Maintenance on 4.8 miles of existing roads would be required to meet current BMP's.
- Current road restrictions, consisting of year round gated road closure, would remain in place to maintain wildlife security, reduce the spread of noxious weeds, and minimize future maintenance costs. The new road constructed as a part of this sale would also be closed and gated year round.

Public Involvement:

- Public involvement was solicited through a legal notice in the Whitefish *Pilot*. Letters were sent to adjacent landowners and also to special interest groups. The public, DNRC specialists and specialists from other agencies helped identify issues. The identified issues were wildlife, forest fuels, aesthetics (visuals), and noxious weeds.

Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:

- **Fuels Reduction** – This area has rural homesteads surrounding the Dogwing sale area and is within a wildland urban interface (WUI). This project would reduce dense fuels within all harvest units and more specifically on 76 acres that border private lands. Firefighting efforts would benefit from the upgraded transportation system and proposed harvest prescriptions.
- **Noxious Weeds** –An integrated weed-management plan to limit the spread of noxious weeds would be applied as follows:
 - Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing, and loading activities would be washed and inspected prior to being brought on site.
 - All disturbed areas would be grass seeded.
 - The project area would be monitored and, if needed, scheduled for follow-up herbicide treatment.
- **Wildlife**– The project area is not within big game winter range although it is along a big game migration corridor. Retention of shrubs and trees along the roads, broken topography, and pockets of untreated areas would maintain limited sight distances. All current road restrictions would remain unchanged, thereby maintaining security for wildlife. Access for hunters would not change.
- **Fisheries** – All laws and rules pertaining to Streamside Management Zones and Riparian Management Zones would be followed. This would provide the necessary mitigation for stream protection; no unique measures are required for this sale. No bull trout or westslope cutthroat trout are present in the streams associated with this project.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Dogwing Timber Sale Project.



Dogwing Timber Sale

Sections 24/30 of T33N R24W
Attachment A, Map 1 of 2



T 33N R24W

Vars North Road

13 18
24 19

Temporary
Stream Crossing

UNIT INFORMATION

Unit	Acres	Volume/Tons
1	11	327
2	76	7,323
3	33	2,482
4	9	714
5	8	754

LEGEND

ROADS

- Highway
- Open Roads
- Managed Roads
- Temporary Road

WATER

- Streams
- Lakes

OTHER

- Power Lines
- Harvest Units
- State Highway Shop
- Proposed Landing
- Proposed Skid Trail

OWNERSHIP

- DNRC
- Private

1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet

T 33N R 23W

Proposed Unit 4/5 Landing

Hwy

Maintenance Rd

To Whitefish

93

24 19

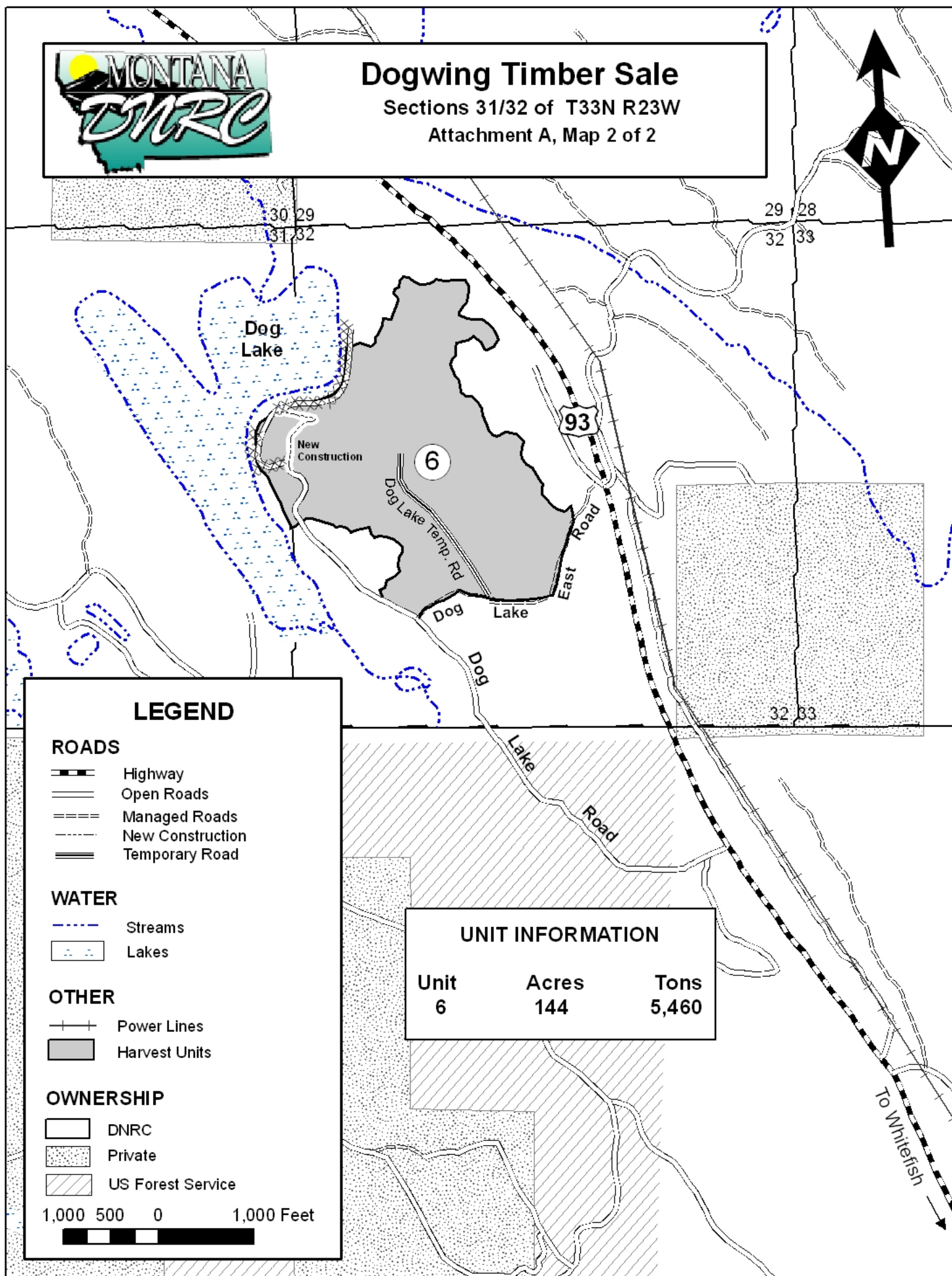
25 30



Dogwing Timber Sale

Sections 31/32 of T33N R23W

Attachment A, Map 2 of 2



Dogwing Timber Sale Vicinity Map

